

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06879 231908Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9837

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6879

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EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: US - PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 170812

1. I CONVEYED THE THOUGHTS IN REFTEL TO LIEVANO AT A LUNCHEON MTG ON JULY 22. HE WAS OF COURSE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF TIMING AND SYMPATHETIC. HE OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT TORRIJOS, AS A "REALIST", WAS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEM.

2. LIEVANO REPLIED AND EMPHASIZED THAT IN ORDER FOR TORRIJOS TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH REGARD TO OUR PROBLEM OF TIMING, THE US WOULD HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING IN MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESSED, EVEN THOUGH SUCH AGREEMENTS OR A DRAFT TREATY MIGHT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL LATER. TORRIJOS, LIEVANO ARGUED, WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSURED THAT TIMING WAS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR US TO DELAY RESOLVING AND DECIDING THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, EITHER INTERNALLY IN OUR BURBOUCRACY OR WITH THE PANAMANIAN. TORRIJOS IS UNLIKELY TO ACQUIESCE IN A TIMING SLOWDOWN, LIEVANO ALLEDGED, IF IT MEANS HE IS TO BE UNSURE IN ADDITION THAT THE ISSUES WILL BE MET IN ANYWAY SATISFACTORY TO HIM; THEREFORE HE NEEDED TO KNOW
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NOW WHAT KIND OF A TREATY HE WILL GET. THE PUBLIC/POLITICAL

TIMING IN SHORT SHOULD NOT MEAN THAT CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTION OF ISSUES AND AGREEMENTS SHOULD ALSO NECESSARILY BE SLIPPED. LIEVANO ADDED THAT SINCE TORRIJOS HAD PUBLICLY PROMISED CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR, HE NEEDED SOMETHING TO DEFEND HIMSELF INTERNALLY AND TO JUSTIFY WHAT WILL PUBLICLY LOOK LIKE SLIPPAGE.

3. LIEVANO SPOKE OF TORRIJOS POSITION AND VIEWS SO FREELY AND UNQUALIFIEDLY AS TO SUGGEST CLEAR CONFIDENCE THAT HE KNOWS WHAT THAT POSITION IS, AND THAT HE MAY IN FACT HAVE HAD IT RECENTLY AND FIRST HAND FROM HIM. THE WAY HE REPEATED AND EMPHASIZED IT SUGGESTED EQUALLY CLEARLY THAT LIEVANO WANTED US TO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS TORRIJOS POSITION.

4. EINAUDI WAS ALSO PRESENT AT LUNCH AND CAN GIVE YOU FULLER FILL IN ON NUANCES AND FLAVOR WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.

VAKY

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